

REMARKS

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 22, 23, and 29 to 33, claims 16 to 21, 24 to 28, 34, and 35 are pending and being considered in the present application, since claims 1 to 15 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements, PTO-1449 papers, and cited references.

With respect to the claim objections, claims 24 to 26 have been amended herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present objections.

With respect to the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the claim has been canceled, thereby rendering moot the present rejection.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 16 to 19, 24, 26 to 28, and 33 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claims 20 and 25 have been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 20, 21, and 25 ultimately depend from claim 24. The Examiner will further note that claim 34 has been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 34 and 35 ultimately depend from claim 26. Accordingly, all of claims 16 to 21, 24 to 28, 34 and 35 are in condition for immediate allowance (claim 33 having been canceled).

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein, thereby rendering moot the remaining claim rejections.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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